THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SATURDAY • MARCH 06, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

Rishabh Pant celebrates his hundred against England in the fourth Test in Ahmedabad on Friday | AIKAJ | PTI

PANT PAINTS MOTERA RED

Rishabh Pant cracked his first hundred at home to steer India clear of trouble against England on the second day of 4th Test

BOSS MAN
The wicket-keeper batsman started cautiously to reach his half-century off 82. He brought up 100 in the next 33 balls to help India take an 89-run lead with three wickets in hand

PARTNERSHIP
All-rounder Washington Sundar and Pant added 113 runs for the seventh wicket. They came together at 146 for 6. Sundar stayed unbeaten on 60 while Pant was out before close of play

TOP CRUMBLE
India's top-order once again failed to live up to expectations. Though Rohit Sharma played well, others including Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane & Cheteshwar Pujara did not last long

ENGLAND TOIL
With a pacer short, both Ben Stokes and Jimmy Anderson worked overtime. Off-spinner Dom Bess was off mark. Skipper Joe Root had to step in to help Jack Leach share the burden

3
THIS IS PANT'S THIRD HUNDRED IN 33 INNINGS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VIJAYAPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Churn as parties get battle-ready

'Insulted' TN Cong wants to fight polls alone

S KUMARESAN @ Chennai

IN what could be the end of long-time, but strained, friendship, the DMK and Congress may go separate ways in this Assembly polls. The State unit of the Congress, according to sources, wants to contest polls alone. A final decision on the matter would be taken by the party's national leadership. State Congress leaders, it is said, feel "insulted" by DMK, which is offering very few seats for the party in the alliance.

The decision was taken in an internal party meeting held on Friday, after TNCC chief, KS Alagiri, made an emotional speech. Accepting the numbers offered by DMK would amount to destroying Congress in TN, Alagiri reportedly said at the meeting. He, hence, appealed for another leader from the party to come forward to conduct talks with the DMK. In his speech, Alagiri also elaborated how the grand old party's strength kept dwindling — one election after another — since it got into an alliance with Dravidian parties.

Congress got 114 seats in 1980, in the DMK alliance. From there, the allocation plummeted to 61 in 1984, when it contested as part of the AIADMK combine. In 1989, Congress decided to contest alone and won 26 seats. By 2001, however, the number of seats contested reduced drastically to a mere 14. While elaborating these numbers, Alagiri got so emotional that he choked up, causing an uproar among those seated, who demanded that Congress contest this elections alone.

AICC in-charge, Dinesh Gundu Rao, who was present at the meeting, remained silent all through these developments. He made no attempts to placate the aggrieved cadre.

It has been learnt that the DMK leadership is planning to wait for one more day and take a decision based on how the national leadership of Congress reacts. DMK's RS Bharathi dismissed the issue as an attempt by Congress leaders to placate unhappy aspirants.

The ripples were felt in Puducherry, where DMK — which is feeling that it's weighed down by Congress — is trying to woo NR Congress into its Secular Democratic Alliance. P7

Fewer minorities, 40% new faces in Didi's list

PRONAB MANDAL @ Kolkata

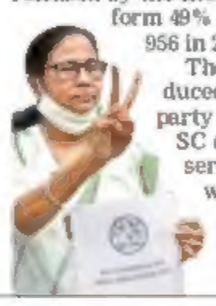
THE Trinamool Congress on Friday announced candidates for 291 of the 294-Assembly seats, fielding young and new faces including actors and sportspersons. TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee will fight from Nandigram in East Midnapore district.

The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha will be given three seats.

Of the 291 TMC candiates, 114 are new faces, which works out to over 39%. The party has dropped octogenerian MLAs. Finance minister Amit Mitra and technical education minister Purnendu Basu will not contest. Besides, As many as 28 sitting MLAs, including five ministers, have been left out.

"We are fielding 51 women candidates, up from 45 in 2016 Assembly elections," said Mamata. Among the candidates are nine actors, two sportspersons and a retired IPS officer.

The decision to give women more tickets is a calculated strategy to tap the rise in women vote share. "According to the final list released by the Election Commission, women voters in Bengal form 49% of the total. The gender-ratio improved from 956 in 2019 to 961," said a TMC leader



The number of minority candidates has been reduced to 40 from 57 in 2016. But at the same time, the party has given 79 tickets to those hailing from the SC community even though only 68 seats are reserved for the category. It means, SC candidates will contest on TMC tickets in 11 unreserved Assembly constituencies. Seventeen candidates from ST community have also been given tickets when Bengal has 16 reserved seats. P10

WHAT IS BIG BANG THEORY?
Cosmologists, astronomers and astrophysicists largely believe that the Universe was created in a massive explosion that not only created the majority of matter, but the physical laws that govern our ever-expanding cosmos. This explosion started from what is known as a singularity.

WHAT IS SINGULARITY?
It is the extremely dense and microscopic point from which an unimaginably huge explosion took place, and the Universe was born. In the fractions of the very first second of the Universe's life, immense gravity dominated physical interactions to cause the bang. This is believed to have occurred 13.8 billion years ago.

WHAT IS RED SHIFT?
Red shift, in astrophysics, is the movement of light towards the red-end of the light spectrum. This occurs when observing extremely distant celestial objects, galaxies that are moving away from us. If it is moving towards us, it is called the blue shift.

4 Indian scientists challenge 'Big Bang'

BALA CHAUHAN & NIRAD MUDUR @ Bengaluru

IN what could dramatically change the way astrophysicists look at the birth of the Universe, four Indian scientists, including one from Bengaluru, have challenged the Big Bang theory related to its origin.

The theory holds that the Universe was born out of a highly compressed, dense and microscopic point (called singularity) which exploded with a huge force some 13.8 billion years ago, resulting in everything arising from that singularity moving outwards in all directions. From this, all cosmic matter (as we know it today) was formed at different stages through time until now.

The Big Bang theory was based on observation of the 'red shift' in the light spectrum. The light wavelength emitted from an astronomical object that is moving away from us exhibits a shift in the light spectrum (VIBGYOR) towards the red end. The Big Bang theory is supported by the understanding that the shift of light towards the red band in the spectrum is continuous and uniform in nature — an indication of all matter (galaxies and all cosmic matter) moving outwards steadily, but at great speed. Working the outward movement backwards, it would mean that it all began from a single starting point in the centre of the Universe (singularity), which is how the Big Bang theory was popularised among astrophysicists.

But now, in a research paper published recently in the prestigious international journal Astronomy & Astrophysics, Prof Sisir Roy from the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru; Arindam Mal from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ahmedabad; and Sarbani Palit and Ujjwal Bhattacharya from the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, have revealed findings contrary to the continuous and uniform nature of movement of light towards the red band of light in the spectrum — casting doubts and challenging the Big Bang theory itself. P7

OTT norms need strong law to monitor content, says SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday said the Centre's guidelines to regulate the functioning of digital platforms are weak as they don't offer any mechanism to block objectionable content or stipulate penal provisions for those who violate the norms. A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan noted the rules were more in the form of an advisory, and not law.

"These rules do not talk about prosecution or punishment in case of a violation. It cannot be done without legislation," the bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre.

The court was hearing a plea by Aparna Purohit, India head of Amazon Prime, for anticipatory bail in connection with FIRs against her over the controversial web series *Tandav*. There are two FIRs filed against her — one each in Greater Noida and Lucknow.

The hearing also witnessed some sharp exchanges between Mehta and senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Purohit. P9

EXPRESS READ

Biden appoints two more Indian-Americans

Washington: US President Joe Biden has appointed two more Indian-Americans to key positions, according to an announcement by the White House on Friday. Chiraag Bains has been made Special Assistant to the President for Criminal Justice and Pronita Gupta is Special Assistant to the President for Labour and Workers.

Urban India increasingly getting slouchy

The outcome of a comprehensive national survey in 2017-18 on the risk of Indians picking up lifestyle diseases conveyed a pretty grim picture. The takeaways:

51.7% urban adults physically inactive (30.9% in rural India)

52.4% physically inactive urban women (36.1% in rural areas)

2 SERVINGS PER DAY Average consumption of fruits and/or vegetables

5 SERVINGS WHO's recommendation

8.9 gm/day salt consumed by men

7.1 gm/day average salt intake by women
Men often took extra salt before having food

28% adults used one or other form of tobacco daily
31.7% of them were in rural areas
20.5% in urban India
21.1 years mean age of initiation of tobacco

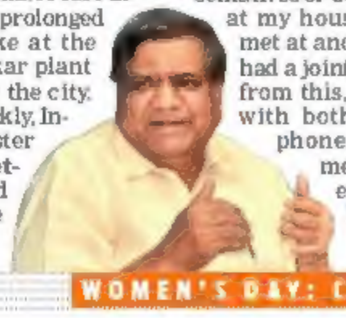
15.9% of respondents consumed alcohol, 81.1% of adults were lifetime abstainers of alcohol (97.3% women and 66.1% men) 22.2 mean age of initiation of alcohol use

40.2% of adults in the 18–69 year age group had a clustering of three or more risk factors like daily tobacco use, inadequate fruits and/or vegetable intake, insufficient physical activity etc

Labour unrest at car maker's plant ends after minister plays mediator

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA has always pitched itself as a favoured investment destination and many global corporations have already set up bases in the state. However, some recent incidents of labour unrest may have dented Brand Bengaluru and Brand Karnataka. A case in point being the prolonged workers' strike at the Toyota Kirloskar plant at Bidadi near the city. But acting quickly, Industries Minister **Jagadish Shettar** mediated between the management and the striking workers and brought about a truce. The Toyota team thanked him on Friday for personally intervening and ending the labour unrest.



Explaining to *TNIE* how the impasse ended, Shettar said, "I visited the factory twice. On two other occasions, the representatives of both sides met me at my house. We had also met at another venue and had a joint meeting. Apart from this, I was in touch with both sides on the phone. The management had suspended some staffers. I expedited the inquiry and the matter has been sorted out."

The minister also said the labour issues concerning iPhone maker Wistron in Kolar district and Asian Paints in Mysuru district have also been sorted out. Regarding the workers' issues at AT&S, he said, "It has not come to my notice. If they approach me, I will intervene. Meanwhile, I will also try to find out what the problems are."

Additional Chief Secretary, Industries Department, Gaurav Gupta told TNIE, "The government has held talks at the ministerial level with the labour union and the factory management." P6

THREE HOSPITALISED

Shocker as foreign, Indian cadets get physical at IMA

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

FOR the first time in the prestigious Indian Military Academy's (IMA) history, groups of Indian and foreign trainee cadets got into a major scuffle, with reports suggesting at least three Indian cadets were admitted in a military hospital here with injuries.

The IMA has ordered a probe into the incident that happened on the intervening night of March 3/4. "A case of scuffle involving Gentleman Cadets undergoing pre-commission training at Indian Military Academy, Dehradun has occurred on night 03/04 March 2021. The case is being investigated and followed up as per regulations governing the academy," said the official statement by the academy. However, there was no official word on the hospitalisation.

The two groups got physical after a heated argument. The foreign cadets were possibly from a country or countries that were part of the former Soviet Union, said sources.

Aghast IMA veterans said they couldn't recall any such flare-up in the past. Major (Retd) Masroof Raza, who was posted in the adjutant branch of the IMA from 1987-89, which deals with foreign cadets, said, "To my memory nothing of this scale has been heard since Independence. I am sure there will be an inquiry and accountability will be fixed with adverse action against those responsible."

"Minor scuffles between foreign cadets have been known but anything like this between foreign cadets and Indian cadets is unheard of till now of course," Major Raza added.

Lt Gen V K Chaturvedi (Retd) said such matters of discipline are always viewed seriously and appropriate action taken.

WOMEN'S DAY: CURTAIN RAISER

Budget to focus on women's welfare

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AS Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa prepares to present the State Budget for 2021-22 on March 8, which also marks International Women's Day, he has promised to give priority to women's welfare, apart from laying emphasis on tourism, irrigation and Bengaluru's development.

"This time, we have decided to give more emphasis and priority to women's welfare in the budget which will be presented on International Women's Day," the CM told mediapersons during his pre-budget interaction on Friday evening.

In the light of the the severe financial constraints due to the Covid-19-induced lockdown and shortfall in revenue receipts, the CM, over the last few weeks, has held a series of meetings with ministers, senior officials, industry representatives and stakeholders from various sectors to finalise the budget proposals. The process was completed on Friday.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa at a pre-budget interaction with journalists in Bengaluru on Friday | EXPRESS

"We completed the exercise today and sent the budget document for printing," said the CM, who looked relaxed and satisfied with the exercise. "We will present a better budget compared to last year," he said.

During his interaction, the CM thrice spoke about laying emphasis on women's welfare in his budget. He, however, did not spell out the women-centric programmes he plans to announce on Monday. Development of the tourism sector in the state, giving push to irrigation projects and taking up infrastructure projects in the state capital will be among the priorities in the budget.

GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES.
Get premium, tender Goat, antibiotic residue-free Chicken, and freshly caught Prawns at this amazing combo price, just for today. Order right away!
Fresh to Home
500g Goat Curry Cut + 500g Chicken Curry Cut
250g Small Prawns Cleaned
₹525
FREE CHICKEN GHEE ROAST (READY-TO-COOK) on orders above ₹699
Use Coupon: GHEE8
Rohu ₹89/500g
Basa Fillets ₹225/500g
Bangada ₹135/500g
Order online at: freshtohome.com
HOME DELIVERY 1800 313 3302